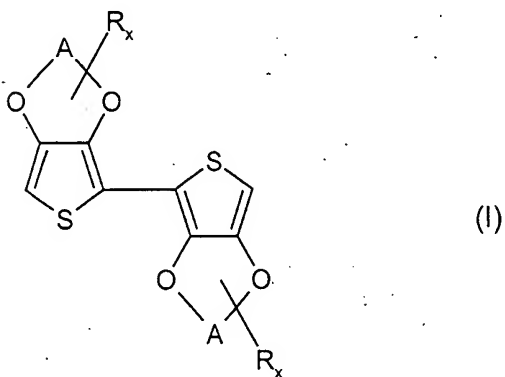


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I)



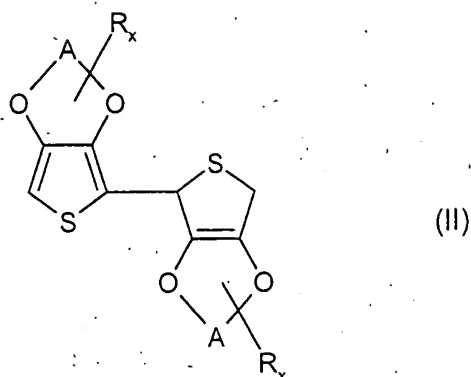
where

A is an optionally substituted C₂-C₄-alkylene radical,

R is one or more, identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₆-C₁₄-aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or one or more hydroxyl radical(s),

x is an integer from 0 to 8,

comprising reacting compounds of the general formula (II)



where

- 5 A, R and x are each as defined for the compounds of the general formula (I)

with a dehydrogenating agent.

- 10 2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that

A is an optionally substituted ethylene radical,

- 15 R is one or more, identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₆-C₁₄-aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or one or more hydroxyl radical(s),

- 20 x is an integer from 0 to 4.

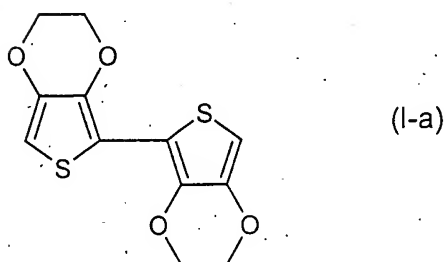
3. Process according to Claim 1 characterized in that

A is an optionally substituted ethylene radical,

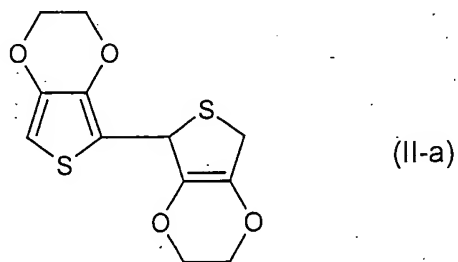
5 R is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, n-hexyl, n-octyl, n-decyl, n-dodecyl, n-tetradecyl or hydroxymethyl,

x is 0 or 1.

10 4. Process according to Claim 1 for preparing the compound of the formula (I-a)



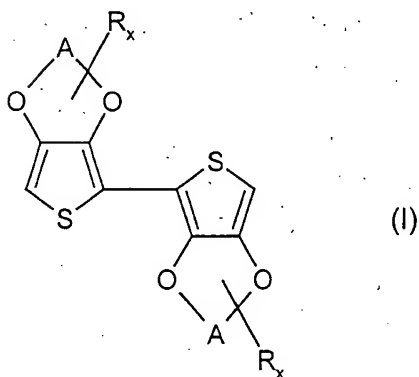
15 comprising reacting compounds of the formula (II-a)



with a dehydrogenating agent.

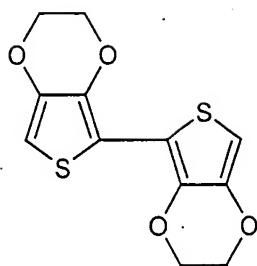
5. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the dehydrogenating agent is selected from the group of the quinones, sulphur, bromine, N-chloro- or N-bromosuccinimide, sulphuryl -
5 chloride, hydrogen peroxide and iodosobenzene.
6. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the dehydrogenating agent is a quinone.
- 10 7. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the dehydrogenating agent is 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-1,4-benzoquinone (chloranil) or 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone.
8. Compounds of the general formula (I)

15



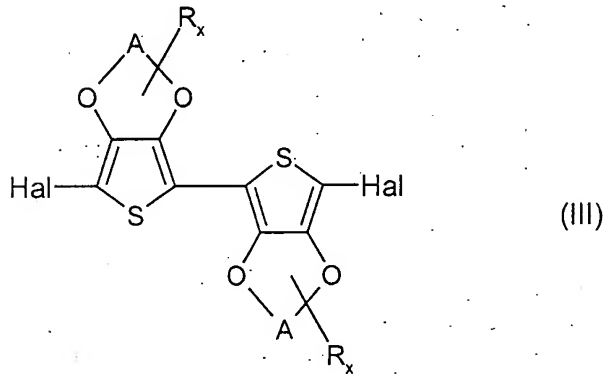
where

20 A, R and x are each as defined in Claim 1, excluding the compound of the formula (I-a)



(I-a).

9. A process for preparing electrically conducting or semiconducting compounds and/or electrically conducting or semiconducting polymers comprising providing the compounds according to Claim 8
- 5 as a precursor.
10. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (III)



(III)

10

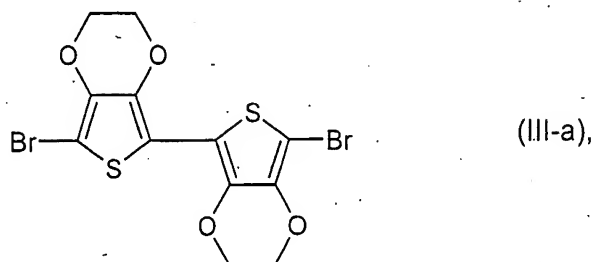
where

A, R and x are each as defined in Claim 1 and

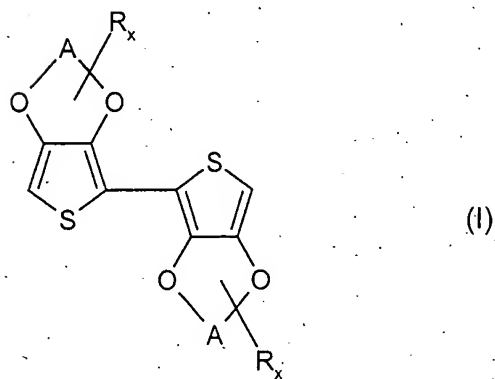
15

Hal is Cl or Br,

excluding the compound of the formula (III-a)



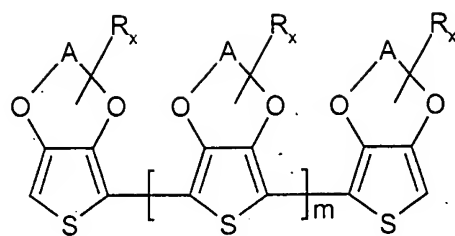
5 comprising halogenating compounds of the general formula (I)



where

10 A, R and x are each as defined in Claim 1.

11. Process for preparing neutral or cationic compounds of the general formula (IV)



(IV)

where

A, R and x are each as defined in Claim 1,

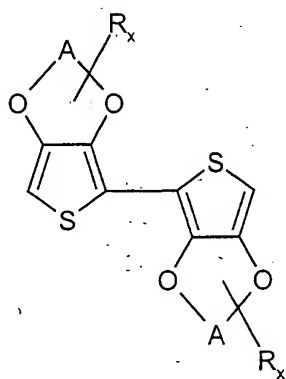
5

m is an even integer from 2 to 200 and

in the case that the compounds of the general formula (IV) are cationic, they bear a positive charge from at least one up to at most $m+2$,

10

comprising oxidatively polymerizing compounds of the general formula (I)



(I)

15

where

A, R and x are each as defined in Claim 1.